

What is claimed is:

1. A protein ^{comprises} the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID No:1, SEQ ID No:3 or SEQ ID No:5, or a salt thereof.

5 2. A partial peptide of the protein according to claim 1, or a salt thereof.

A 3. A DNA ^{comprises} a DNA having a nucleotide sequence encoding the protein according to claim 1.

C 4. The DNA according to claim 3, which ^{comprises} a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No:2, SEQ ID No:4 or SEQ ID No:6.

10 5. A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 3.

6. A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 5.

15 7. A process for producing the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 1, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 6, and producing and accumulating the protein according to claim 1.

8. An antibody to the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide according to claim 2 or a salt thereof.

10 9. A method for determining a ligand for the protein according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, which comprises using the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide according to claim 2 or a salt thereof.

20 10. A method for screening a compound or a salt thereof which alters property of a ligand binding with the protein according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, which comprises using the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide according to claim 2 or a salt thereof.

25 11. A kit for screening a compound or a salt thereof which alters property of

a ligand binding with the protein according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, which comprises the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide according to claim 2 or a salt thereof.

12. A compound or a salt thereof which alters property of a ligand binding
5 with the protein according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, which is obtainable by the method for screening according to claim 10 or the kit for screening according to claim 11.

13. A pharmaceutical which comprises a compound or a salt thereof which alters property of a ligand binding with the protein according to claim 1 or a salt
10 thereof, which is obtainable by the method for screening according to claim 10 or the kit for screening according to claim 11.

14. A DNA which hybridizes with the DNA according to claim 3 under stringent conditions.

15. A nucleotide containing a nucleotide sequence encoding the protein
15 according to claim 1.

16. A nucleotide containing a part of a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding the protein according to claim 1.

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